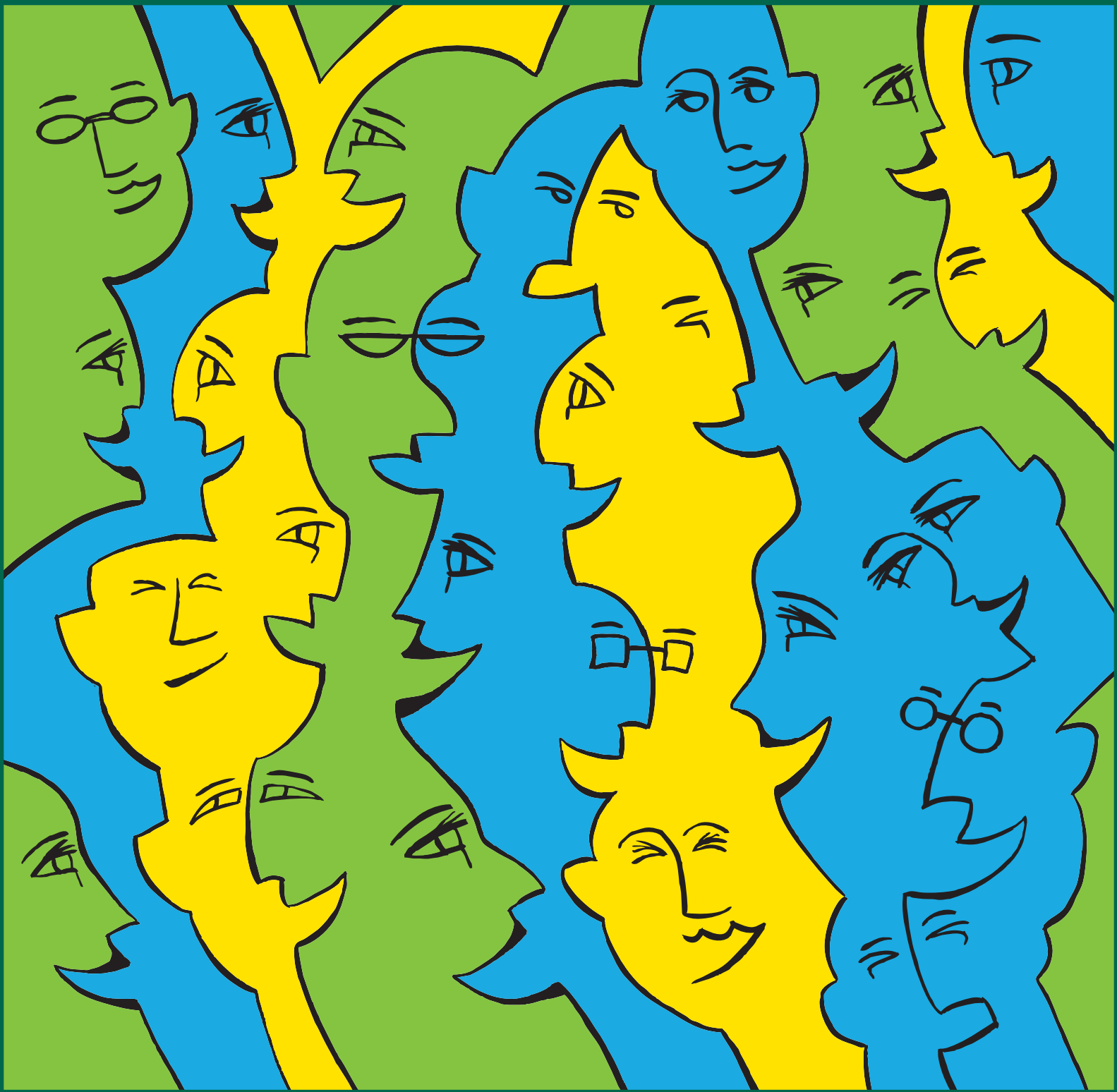


Libraries...and Their Users...
OUT LOUD!



Illinois Library Association Annual Report 2010-2011



Dear ILA Members and Friends,

What a year this has been for the Illinois library community. We came together in October at Navy Pier and listened, learned, laughed, and got loud. We dodged cuts in Springfield and traveled to Washington to advocate for libraries. We tracked more than 160 diverse legislative initiatives that might impact our community while, once again, blocking a filtering bill from gaining momentum. We met statewide for various professional development workshops and made new partnerships with other Illinois literacy associations while sadly missing many of our dear library systems friends. We planned for the future of Illinois library cooperation while northern and southern systems merged into RAILS and Heartland. We took snapshots, went green, scared up a good book, and basked in the glow of new luminaries. During these unsettling times, libraries around the state remained steadfast to missions of service, of the best library service, to their communities and all the while here we were at ILA providing a collective and reasoned voice to the best of our abilities.

It has been my great pleasure and humble privilege to serve the Illinois library community as the president of the Illinois Library Association. To our leadership including board members, committee chairs and members, and forum managers and members, I am grateful for your sweet patience and generous support and for the challenges and the growth that this opportunity has afforded me. Thank you for letting me live out loud with you for this very special year in the life of Illinois libraries.

Appreciatively yours,

Gail Bush.

Gail Bush
ILA President, 2010–2011



What better way to tell the story of the year gone by than in the **OUT LOUD** voices of the librarians of Illinois and the people they serve? Patrons, authors, students, elected officials, newspapers and magazines, blogs and tweets, all told library stories this year. Some of the stories were sad, some triumphant. Here are a few of our favorites, in case you missed them, capturing the year that was.

“To be an advocate is to raise your voice on behalf of an issue and join in common cause with people who share your same passions.”

Nancy A. Ashbrooke, Glenview Public Library, *ILA Reporter*, December 2010

ILA worked hard in Springfield and Washington, DC, this past year, and supported local communities through our advocacy efforts. Our members turned out in force for meetings with their legislators in their home districts and welcomed them to the second annual Snapshot Day on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

The big story of the year was the merging of the state’s nine regional library systems into northern and southern tiers, and both new systems — Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) and Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) — officially came into being on July 1, 2011. Delays in state funding resulted in disrupted lives and services, but by the end of the year, a new era was beginning.

The Illinois General Assembly cut over \$2 billion from the governor's proposed budget, but House Bill 123 essentially provided level funding for library grant programs. Other successful legislation favorable to libraries included:

- House Bill 177, an initiative of the Chicago Public Library, amended the local records act to allow disposal of all paper registration records once the information is digitally entered and verified.
- House Bill 179 allows public libraries to file IPLAR reports sixty days after the end of the fiscal year and makes other accounting changes.
- Senate Bill 1686 will reduce the cost of public notices required by law and was a difficult and long negotiation with the Illinois Press Association; the final bill prohibits newspapers from charging anything more than the lowest cost charged to any customer for any required newspaper notice.
- House Bill 1956 addresses pension eligibility for part-time workers, but no other pension changes were enacted.

Opposing bills that adversely affect our members is an equally important part of our overall advocacy strategy:

- House Bill 148 allowed carrying of concealed firearms throughout the state; as a result of library opposition, the sponsor added an amendment to exempt libraries from the bill. The legislation ultimately failed.
- House Bill 2889 was the seventeenth time a bill was filed imposing mandatory Internet filters and was aggressively opposed by ILA, negotiating a dramatic reduction in its scope. The bill failed to come to a vote in the House.
- House Bill 2823 limited the taxing and budget power of elected library boards, and was an unprecedented attempt by one unit of local government to take over the authority of another. The library community reacted swiftly and effectively in persuading the sponsor to hold this legislation for the time being.

In all, ILA tracked and worked on 161 bills that covered an incredible range of issues, and we are very pleased that no bill opposed by the association ultimately passed the general assembly this session.

Promoting Professional Excellence OUT LOUD!

“Think for Yourself, and Let Others Do the Same!”

Banned Books Week theme, September 2010

Illinois librarians and ILA members excel at thinking for themselves, and they thought up all kind of ways to improve their libraries and their skills in the past year.



“Libraries are just the place for green literacy!”

Elizabeth Stearns, Waukegan Public Library, *ILA Reporter*, December 2010

One of the year’s outstanding efforts was Go Green at Your Illinois Library — a partnership between ILA, the Field Museum, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. An all-day workshop at the Field Museum and a follow-up webinar brought ideas and information to libraries that want to awaken their communities with a message of sustainable and renewable practices. Kudos to the ILA Marketing Committee for securing funding for this terrific project!



“Everyone has a right to see the world and themselves through intellectual freedom, knowledge, and art.”

Joseph Bellanca, Sylvia Murphy Williams Scholarship recipient, *ILA Reporter*, October 2010

Ten recipients of ALA’s Spectrum Scholarships received additional support toward their pursuit of master’s degrees in library and information science: four students at Dominican University and six at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.





“I remembered the room as such a warm, friendly place — and have loved libraries ever since.”

Anne West Lindsey, 1914–2005, *ILA Reporter*, February 2011

Carterville, Illinois, got a brand new library building, thanks to a \$1.5 million bequest from Anne West Lindsay, a lifelong believer in the value of libraries. West grew up in Carterville and remembered the days when the library was no more than a room in the local bank.

“Libraries today are action-packed with puffy creatures from literature wandering amid the stacks and mysterious technologies.”

David Catrow, 2011 iREAD artist, *ILA Reporter*, August 2010

This year’s iREAD artist for *A Midsummer Knight’s Read* talks about how he felt when he finished reading *The Story of Lou Gehrig* as a kid, the first book he ever read all the way through that didn’t have pictures. Finishing that first one made him feel as if every book was his for the taking. His first “editor” was a kindergarten teacher that criticized his drawing because it wasn’t like all the other kids — he never looked back.



Preparing for the Future OUT LOUD!

Luminary: (1) a person of prominence or brilliant achievement.

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

This honor roll of Illinois Library Luminaries reached the milestone of twenty such individuals, with seven new members joining the list: Debby Miller, Robert P. Doyle, Ernest J. Martin, Vandella Brown, Sylvia Murphy Williams, Alphonse Trezza, and John W. Berry. Each of these honorees brings at least \$1,000 in donations in their name to the ILA Endowment Fund. Their contributions, financial and otherwise, are significant to our ability to prepare for a strong future for Illinois libraries.



“Students enrolled in the public library summer reading program reported that they like to read books, like to go to the library, and picked their own books to read.”

Dominican University study, *ILA Reporter*, August 2010

Once again, the Australian Library and Information Association, and libraries across the globe chose iREAD as the summer reading program for libraries worldwide. This is the thirtieth year that Illinois librarians have chosen a theme and an illustrator, developed activities, and planned for incentives to make reading part of summer vacation and improved learning outcomes for both children and adults in Illinois and internationally.

“By far the most economical way to ensure a wider range of resources for library patrons is by physically moving books from one community to another.”

Future of Illinois Library Cooperation (FILC) Plan, *ILA Reporter*, October 2010

One of the year's major initiatives has been working with the library community to plan for the new environment being created by the system mergers and restructuring. ILA received support from the Illinois State Library using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to develop a plan for new models of delivery and other shared services. The project will continue in 2011–2012.

“...the support that walking sticks provide echoes the support the library provides to the community.”

Artist David Philpot, *ILA Reporter*, April 2011

A series of articles in the *ILA Reporter* continued to feature the “treasures” in the collections in libraries statewide, from the Chicago Botanic Garden to an innovative project connecting teens, art, and civic engagement developed by the American Library Association Public Programs Office. Other features zoomed in on the comic book collection at Northwestern University libraries, special collections at Augustana College in Paxton, Illinois, and the city of Chicago's public art program that has placed work by well-known artists in dozens of public libraries.



Financials

The association ended FY 2010–2011 with a \$116,171 surplus and a \$77,097 gain in ILA’s long-term investments for a total gain of \$193,268, making significant progress toward the goal set by the ILA Executive Board of creating a reserve equal to 50 percent of the annual budget.

Auditors Weiss, Sugar, Dvorak & Dusek, Ltd., said, “The association continues to manage its resources responsibly and association members are well served by the balanced fiscal policies, especially in these times of economic uncertainty. We are pleased to see increasing revenues, a healthy balance sheet and growing reserves, and urge continued cost containment, especially in those areas that do not show net gains. This is the time to invest in strategies that show potential for revenue growth.”

Revenue

General Operations	\$ 41,172
Membership	\$ 263,978
Conference	\$ 379,172
Publications	\$ 1,931,013
Public Policy	\$ 4,000
Awards	\$ 10,950
Endowment	\$ 13,858
Workshops/Projects	\$ 83,267
Reaching Forward	\$ 93,310
Total Revenue	\$ 2,820,720

Expenses

(before allocation of staff salaries, taxes, and benefits to functional areas)

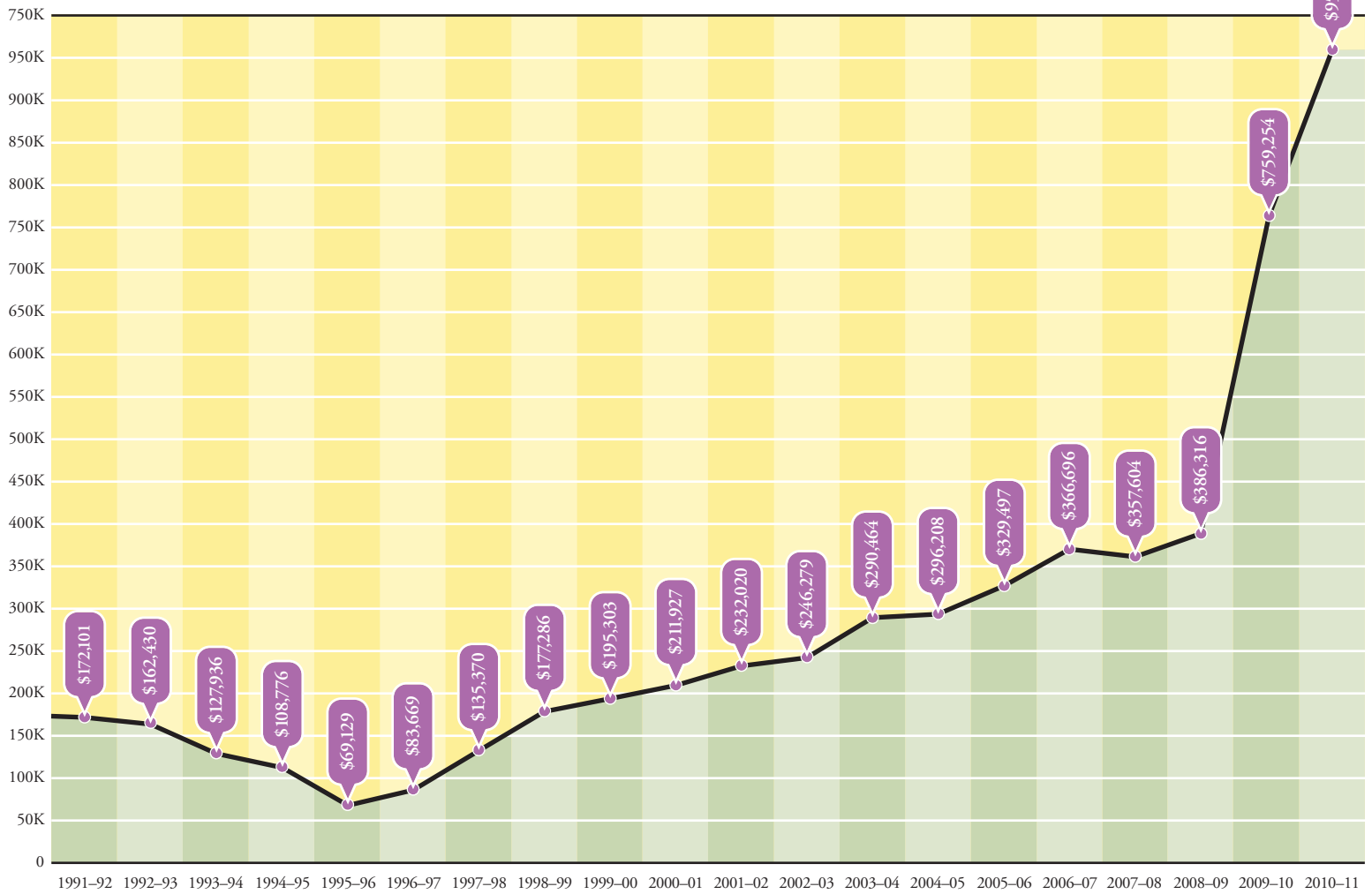
General Operations	\$ 497,632
Membership/Directory/Reporter	\$ 96,906
Conference	\$ 367,542
Board/Committee	\$ 11,114
Publications	\$ 1,430,860
Public Policy	\$ 66,518
Awards	\$ 7,995
Workshops/Projects	\$ 98,763
Professional Development	\$ 1,692
Forums	\$ 35,183
Reaching Forward	\$ 90,344
Total Expenses	\$ 2,704,549

Net Income before Gain on Long-Term Investments	\$ 116,171
Gain on Long-term Investments	\$ 77,097
Net Income	\$ 193,268
Net Assets at end of FY 2010	\$ 759,254
Net Assets at end of FY 2011	\$ 952,522

Net Assets Comprise:

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 851,415
Temporarily Restricted Assets	\$ 24,904
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atkinson Memorial Award (\$3,508) • deLafayette Reid Fund for Continuing Education (\$4,283) • Robert R. McClarren Award Fund for Legislative Development (\$656) • Sylvia Murphy Williams Fund (\$631) • Legal Defense Fund (\$555) • Preiser Award (\$1,410) • Illinois Library Day (\$4,747) • Go Green Initiative (\$9,114) 	
Permanently Restricted Assets	\$ 76,203
Total Net Assets at end of FY 2011	\$ 952,522

Historical Overview of Net Assets



Cumulative Surplus

After fifteen years of expanding services, reduced staffing, and aggressive cost controls, the association has ended the last fifteen fiscal years with surpluses totalling \$883,393.

2010-2011	\$ 193,268
2009-2010	\$ 372,938
2008-2009	\$ 28,712
2007-2008	\$ -9,092
2006-2007	\$ 37,199
2005-2006	\$ 33,289
2004-2005	\$ 5,744
2003-2004	\$ 44,185
2002-2003	\$ 14,259
2001-2002	\$ 20,093
2000-2001	\$ 16,624
1999-2000	\$ 18,017
1998-1999	\$ 41,916
1997-1998	\$ 51,701
1996-1997	\$ 14,540
Total	\$ 883,393

Mission Statement

The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people. Its primary goals are:

Advocating for the Public Interest

- develop and promote strong public policy related to libraries, literacy, and lifelong learning;
- defend intellectual freedom and access to information; and
- increase public awareness of the value of libraries to society.

Promoting Excellence and Innovation

- provide outstanding programs of continuing education and leadership development;
- support the recruitment, retention, and professional development of a culturally and racially diverse workforce for libraries;
- produce high quality publications and communications; and
- celebrate the achievement of excellence and innovation on behalf of the membership.

Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future

In order to achieve these goals, ILA will use its resources wisely and maintain a flexible structure that promotes the diverse interests and broad participation of members.

Vision Statement

The Illinois Library Association is indispensable in leading efforts in library advocacy and collaboration, and serving as a springboard to innovation and excellence in library services.

Organizational Information

Membership

The Illinois Library Association represents all types of libraries — public, school, academic, and special libraries serving government, commerce, the armed services, hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. Its 3,500 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

Administration and Governance

The Illinois Library Association has three full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Kolkmeier Consulting for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

Forums

Government Documents Forum
Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries Forum
Leadership Forum
Librarians for Social Responsibility Forum
Library Trustee Forum
Public Library Forum
Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff
Reference Services Forum
Resources & Technical Services Forum
Young Adult Services Forum
Youth Services Forum

Standing Committees

Advocacy Committee
Awards Committee
Best Practices Committee
Conference Program Committee
Cultural and Racial Diversity Committee
Finance Committee
Fundraising Committee
Intellectual Freedom Committee
ILA Reporter Advisory Committee
iREAD Committee
Marketing Committee
Membership Committee
Nominating Committee
Public Policy Committee

2010-2011 Executive Board

President

Gail Bush, National Louis University

Vice President/President-Elect

Lynn Elam, Algonquin Area Public Library District

Immediate Past President

Carole A. Medal, Gail Borden Public Library District

Treasurer

Theodore C. Schwitzner, Illinois State University

Directors

Betsy Adamowski, Itasca Community Library

Laura Barnes, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

Terry Cottrell, University of St. Francis Library

Cynthia L. Fuerst, Vernon Area Public Library District

David Hamilton, CARLI: Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois

Dianne Happ, Peoria Public Library

Sheree Kozel-La Ha, Homer Township Public Library District

Amanda McKay, Helen Matthes Library

Diana Brawley Sussman, Carbondale Public Library

Rebecca Teasdale, Oak Park Public Library

Leslie Warren, Moraine Valley Community College Library

ALA Councilor

Donald L. Roalkvam, Indian Trails Public Library District

Ex Officio

Anne B. Craig, Illinois State Library

Robert P. Doyle, Illinois Library Association



Robert P. Doyle
Illinois Library Association
33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401
Chicago, IL 60654-6799
phone: (312) 644-1896
fax: (312) 644-1899
e-mail: ila@ila.org
<http://www.ila.org>